

city college news

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Premier's Award Winner celebrates with family and friends

It was old home week for Dr. Anthony E. Brissett, this year's winner of the Ontario Premier's Award for the Health Sciences category and George Brown College graduate. After receiving his award at a formal ceremony in London, Ontario, Dr. Brissett took time out of his busy schedule to return to the college for an honorary dinner at

Siegfried's. There he had a chance to reunite with classmates and teachers, including one of his first mentors, Kathy Prypasniak.

Now a Clinician Investigator and Clinical Instructor in head and neck surgery at the world-renowned Mayo Clinic, Brissett was a marginal student in high school. He attributes much of his success

to the support and encouragement he received as a student at George Brown, where he completed a Dental Assisting course before moving into the Nursing program. It was during his first year at the college that Brissett met Prypasniak, the person he credits with helping him gain essential study skills and wakening his intellectual curiosity.

"At the time Anthony was at George Brown, there were few male dental assistants, so we talked a lot about his options," says Prypasniak. "I suggested he try nursing." Taking this advice set him on a path that eventually led him to medical school and ongoing success as a doctor and researcher.

"Kathy was one of those individuals who saw something in me that I was not able to see in myself and helped guide me to me where I am now," says Brissett. "George Brown College helped me build a strong foundation and mature as a person. It created a great

family experience for me that continues today. Many of us have kept in touch and watched each other grow over the years."

Prypasniak adds that throughout his career Brissett has always made a point of maintaining contact. "He used to call every Christmas and before the summer holidays. Now with e-mail, we communicate all the time."

The dinner also provided the opportunity for Brissett to present the first Theresa V. Brissett Scholarship to Romina Vazquez, a student in the Dental Assisting program. The scholarship, named after his mother, has been established for students in George Brown's Dental Assisting and Nursing Programs. It will alternate annually between the two programs and will be given to a student in financial need who demonstrates the most overall improvement.

"I chose George Brown for the scholarship because it has done — and continues to do — great things," says Brissett.



Rosalie Starkey, Continuing Education Marketing Manager, and Kathleen Abbott, Acting Director of the Centre for Continuous Learning, with the Trillium Award.

C.E. calendar wins award

The Ontario College Committee on Advancement (CCA) has awarded George Brown a Trillium Award for its 2001 Continuing Education calendar. These provincial awards, designed to honour excellence in communications, were presented on February 16 at the CCA conference in London, Ontario.

The awards judging panel, made up of communication

industry professionals, said the calendar was attractive and easy to use. The calendar cover was created by Scott-Thornley Limited, a design firm whose Art Director, Henry Zaluski, is a George Brown Graphic Design program graduate. Inside pages were typeset by Adam Mann.

Calendar content and production were coordinated at the college by Cheryl Dunn.



Kathy Prypasniak mentored Premier's Award winner Dr. Anthony Brissett while his teacher at George Brown.

Super chef John Higgins finds new satisfaction teaching at the George Brown Chef's School

He's cooked for the Queen and heads of state, won dozens of gold medals in competition, and commands international acclaim. Now super chef John Higgins is finding a new kind of satisfaction: as a college teacher.

Higgins joined the Chef's School at George Brown College in January. In making the move, he realized an ambition he secretly harboured for years, even as his career took him to culinary heights in Buckingham Palace, the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington D.C., and Le Meridien King Edward Hotel in Toronto. "Teaching is something I've wanted to do for 20 years," he says.

The transition from

Executive Chef at the King Edward — a job he held for the last 13 years — to teaching in the nearby college isn't as great as it may appear.

Training and teaching staff at the King Street landmark hotel was a big part of his job there, and his most profound satisfaction was mentoring colleagues and helping them realize their potential, Higgins says. "That's what it's all about." While Higgins will spend most of his time at the college teaching, he will also be Co-ordinator of New Initiatives of the George Brown Chef's School.

Higgins' own interest in a culinary career started as a 10-year-old when he visited the ritzy Gleneagles Hotel near his home in Scotland.

He's a graduate of Motherwell College in Scotland, and credits teachers there with instilling in him a passion to excel. That passion was honed in a professional career that took him back to the Gleneagles Hotel and from there to Buckingham Palace and the top echelon of Toronto hotels, including Inn on the Park, The Four Seasons, and Sutton Place.

Along the way he has garnered a room full of awards and medals, including Chef of the Year from the Canadian Federation of Chefs, Ontario Hostelry Institute, and Escoffier Society of Toronto. He was captain of the Culinary Team Canada that came home from the 1999

Culinary World Cup in Basel, Switzerland with three gold medals. In 2001 he was named the first ever Chef Artist in the Absolut Vodka Culinary Arts Awards.



Former Board of Governors Chair receives Ontario colleges award. Patricia Hatt, shown here with George Brown president Frank Sorochinsky, shows off the community service award she was presented with on February 18, 2002 by the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario. Hatt is a former member and chair of George Brown's Board of Governors who works to create educational opportunities for people with disabilities.



Fabulous February keeps the winter blues at bay
The Child and Youth Work Department at St. James played its part in beating the winter blues by holding its annual Fabulous February Open House. Students and staff members who dropped by the office had a chance to enjoy coffee, treats and giveaways, and to take part in a Web-based cash draw. Coordinator Brenda Pipitone says, "We like to make Fabulous February motivational and fun so that it gives people a bit of an energy boost this time of year. It also gives us the opportunity to say thanks to all the staff that support our students throughout the year." Pictured at the Open House are (l to r): Sarah Hacquoin, Kelly Aguilar and Catherine Callaghan.

SuperBuild projects are on track

George Brown is happy to report that project work at all three SuperBuild sites – St. James, Casa Loma and Ryerson – is on track, moving forward on time, and on budget. Here's a brief update on their current status:

St. James: The building permit has been received and the project is now in full construction mode. The current focus is on excavation for the foundations.

Casa Loma: Demolition of the building at 146 Kendal is now complete and work is progressing on clearing the site while permits are pending.

Ryerson: This site is now 40% complete and construc-

tion is on schedule to meet the late summer 2002 deadline. The elevator towers and extensions of the existing stairwells have been finished, and concrete slabs have been installed on the fifth, sixth and penthouse floors.

Fireproofing has also been completed for the sixth floor framing. Construction crews have begun roughing in the mechanical and electrical services, and installation has started on the new mechanical plant for the penthouse. An emergency generator has now been delivered and installed at the site. Bid specifications for furniture have also been publicly advertised.



Construction is on schedule at Eric Palin Hall on the Ryerson campus. The Sally Horsfall Eaton Centre for Studies in Community Health, jointly operated by Ryerson and George Brown, will occupy two floors in the building. Photo by William Conway.

Design professionals launch new industry textbook



Michael Maynard, Director of the Design Centre at George Brown, joined other industry professionals at the Design Exchange to celebrate the launch of a new textbook published by the Association of Registered Graphic Designers of Ontario, *The Business of Graphic Design: A Professional's Handbook*. Maynard contributed to the Technology Section of the book, which will be used by design students and professionals. Maynard is shown (right) with René Schoepflin, one of the original group of graphic designers who helped form the Association.

College staff changes

For the period up to January 31, 2002

New Staff:

Russell Clements, *Community Services and Health Sciences*

Paul Cartlidge, *Technology*

Brian Durie, *Technology*

Michael Garrett, *Business and Creative Arts*

John Higgins, *Hospitality and Tourism*

Andria Lewis, *Student Affairs*

Ted Lewis, *Technology*

Vera Parkin, *Community Services and Health Sciences*

Joanne Tonk, *Business and Creative Arts*

Sandra Wiesenthal, *Community Services and Health Sciences*

Leaving the College:

John Cook, *Training Services*

Andrew Ferguson, *Registrar's Office*

Maureen Henriques, *Technology*

Lisa Trudel, *Student Affairs*

Retiring from the College:

Audrey Albert, *Student Affairs*

Malcolm Crozier, *Community Services & Health Sciences*

Glen Fraser, *Technology*

Theresa Greasley, *Finance Department*

June Handera, *Business and Creative Arts*

Seymour Laufer, *Language Studies*

Lourdes Pena, *Educational Resources*

Marsha Skolnik, *Language Studies*

Susan Verburg, *Hospitality and Tourism*

upcoming events

Faculty of Business and Creative Arts Open House

Friday, March 8 (10am to 4pm)

Casa Loma Campus

Call Debbie Fulford at 416-415-4840.

10th Annual Labour Fair

Thursday, March 14 to Wednesday, March 20

This year's Fair will centre on the theme "Are You Ready? Working in Uncertain Times." Call Maureen Hynes at 416-415-2549 or e-mail her at mhynes@gbrown.on.ca.

Metro Colleges Part-time Teachers' Mini-Conference

Saturday, March 16 (9am to 12:30pm)

Casa Loma Campus

Call Margaret Whittleton at 416-415-4663.

Free Career Planning Workshop – sponsored by Marketing & Communications and Continuing Education

Monday, March 11 and April 8 (6:30 to 9:30pm)

St. James Campus, 200 King St. E., Room 128

Call 416-415-2000, ext. 3444 and press 1 to register.

Free True Colors® Workshop – sponsored by Marketing & Communications and Continuing Education

Monday, March 25 (6:30 to 9:30pm)

St. James Campus, 200 King St. E., Room 128

Call 416-415-2000, ext. 3444 and press 3 to register.

Technology in the City

Tuesday, April 2 (9am to 8pm)

Centre for Advanced Microelectronics, Faculty of Technology – Casa Loma Campus, C Building

Theatre School Productions

Tuesday, April 9 to Saturday, April 20

Spring Repertory Session: *The Beaux' Stratagem* by George Farquhar and *Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell

George Brown Theatre, 530 King Street East

Tickets are \$12 for general admission, and pay-what-you-can for Saturday matinees.

Call 416-415-2167 to order tickets.

The George Brown Spring Fashion Show: Signatures 2002

Thursday, April 25 (7:30pm)

Tickets \$15 in advance

Location to be determined

Call Rosa Fracassa at 416-415-4854 ex. 3460

GBC Alumni – Class of Nursing, January 1987 Reunion

September 2002

Call Bill Wade, RN at 416-429-8674.

news briefs

Labour Fair promises something for everyone

More than 70 presentations are on the agenda for the 10th Annual Labour Fair, "Are You Ready? Working in Uncertain Times." In addition to the presentations, there will be a series of special events, including an exhibit by the Ontario Workers Arts and Heritage Centre, Hamilton, entitled "All We Worked For: 100 years of Canadian Workers' History" that will be featured in the St. James Lobby from March 14 to 20.

Linda McQuaig, author of *All You Can Eat: Greed, Lust and the New Capitalism* and National Post columnist, will be presenting in Room 128A at St. James on March 14 from noon to 1:00pm. Sistah Lois will also be performing a blend of song, poetry and stories at the Nightingale Cafeteria on the same date from noon to 1:00pm. Casa Loma will be hosting "Labourmania! A Workers' Rights Game Show" (date and time to be determined). See the agenda on the School of Labour web site at www.gbrown.on.ca/schooloflabour/lab-fair.htm. For more information, call Maureen Hynes at 416-415-2549 or e-mail her at mhynes@gbrown.on.ca.

Huskies head to provincial championships

All that pounding of feet and basketballs heard at the St. James campus has finally paid off for the George Brown Huskies men's and women's basketball teams. Both have qualified for the Provincial playdowns, which will be taking place during the weekend of March 1 to 3. If successful, the men's team will then move on to the Provincial Championships to be held March 8 and 9 at Niagara College in Welland, while the women's will be played at Durham College in Oshawa. Tournament winners will advance to the Nationals.

New calendar delivers the Collaborative Nursing Program message

George Brown Nursing faculty is spreading the word about the Collaborative Nursing Baccalaureate program through a new calendar that was produced in conjunction with Ryerson University and Centennial College. More than 1,000 copies of the "Heroes Calendar," which celebrates nursing, have made their way to people in schools, hospitals and other organizations. The 2002 Calendar highlights the accomplishments of 12 practicing nurses in the Toronto area who work in healthcare facilities that have been involved with the program. They were nominated by their peers and selected by a panel of judges.

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